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PROFESSOR JOHN MERLE COULTER

Head of the Department of Botany of the University of Chicago, Retiring President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

THE PROGRESS OF SCIENCE

THE WORK OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE

THE Baltimore meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the national scientific societies affiliated with it was unusually and unexpectedly successful. Owing to war conditions, the place of meeting had been changed from Boston to the neighborhood of Washington, and it was planned to hold a small meeting devoted primarily to war work. The signing of the armistice altered the situation, and the meetings of the association and of those affiliated societies which had not

postponed their meetings were largely attended and full of interest.

The association was fortunate in meeting at Johns Hopkins University, the original home of academic research in the United States. Professor Theodore W. Richards, director of the Wolcott Gibbs Memorial Laboratory of Chemistry at Harvard University, the retiring president, Professor John M. Coulter, head of the department of botany at the University of Chicago, the president of the meeting, and Dr. Simon Flexner, director of the laboratories of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, the president-



DR. SIMON FLEXNER

Director of the Laboratories of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research,
President of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

elect, are admirable examples, in their own work and on account of the sciences in which they lead, of the contributions of scientific research to the welfare of the nation.

To chemistry we owe in large measure the successful conduct of the war and the maintenance of our manufactures; to botany our agricultural products which have saved the world from starvation; to pathology the low death rate from disease in the army. If chemical research and its applications are given what they need, the material primacy of the nation is assured; if botany and related sciences are adequately supported, the productivity of our farms and gardens can be doubled; if pathology has more men of the type of Dr. Flexner, 5,000,000 deaths such as have been caused by the epidemic of influenza can not recur.

It was realized by all present at the Baltimore meeting that science and the scientific men of the country were leading factors in bringing the war to a quick and favorable conclusion. The applications of science have enabled the country to amass the immense wealth which could be devoted to the purposes of the nation; our scientific men were able to meet on terms of equal performance those of every other nation. In like manner it was agreed that science and scientific workers have a great part to play in the reconstruction period in which we are entering. The whole future of the nation rests on the proper development and distribution of our resources in natural wealth and in men. We must now decide to lead in scientific research and in the applications of science for the welfare of the people of the country.

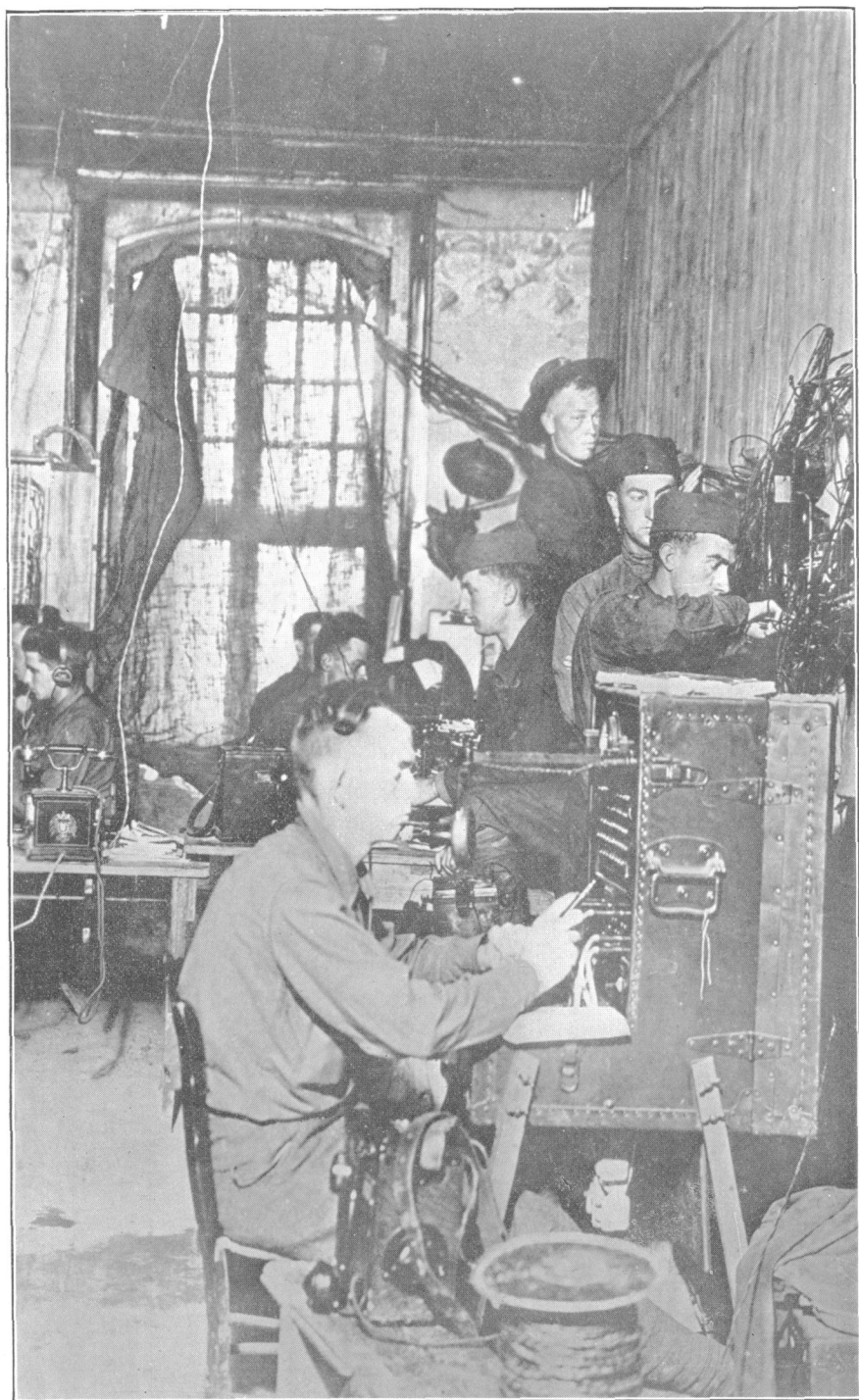
Science, education, democracy and organization are the four corner stones on which our civilization is based. Science may properly be

placed first, for the applications of science have made it possible to provide education and equality of opportunity for all. The debt of education and democracy to science for its past service, their dependence on science for their further progress, are so great that no support given to science can repay their past obligation or sufficiently strengthen its hands for its future work.

There is probably no other association in the world that represents so completely as the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the four fundamental bases of modern civilization, science, education, democracy and organization. Its object is the advancement and the diffusion of science, perhaps the most important of all educational work. It has a special section devoted to the scientific investigation of educational problems. Not only is its work essential for democracy, but it is itself a democratic institution. It welcomes to fellowship all scientific workers and to membership all those interested in science. Its council, on which all the national scientific societies are represented is a democratically elected body that can speak and legislate for the scientific men and scientific work of the country. The association now has some 14,000 names on its membership list, with the affiliated societies, some 25,000, or 100,000 if physicians and engineers represented on the council are included.

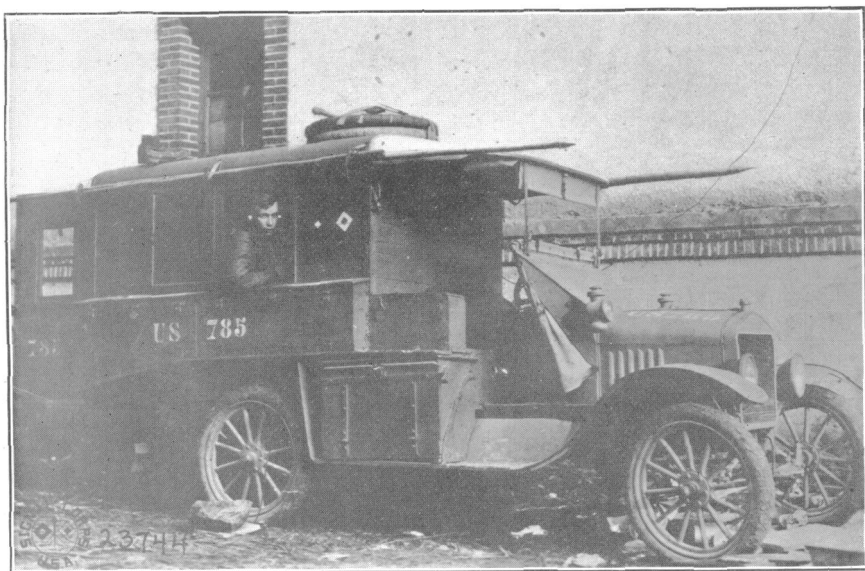
This great body should be used effectively for the advancement and diffusion of science. In a democracy we must depend on the knowledge and good will of the people for the opportunity to do the work that is of such surpassing value for them. We must make the scientific career so attractive that able men will be drawn to it, and we must then give them the best possible opportunity to do their work.

This requires education and or-



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AN AMERICAN FIELD SIGNAL BATTALION TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD IN OPERATION ON THE ST. MIHIEL SALIENT. Some of the equipment had been captured from the Germans which is indicated by the German Eagle, stamped on one of the telephones in the background.



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WIRELESS SET MOUNTED ON A TRUCK OF A FIELD SIGNAL BATTALION IN FRANCE.



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MEMBERS OF A FIELD SIGNAL BATTALION SIGNALLING BY WIRELESS TO AEROPLANES.

ganization. Every scientific worker and all those who appreciate the fundamental place of science in national welfare should unite to do their part through our scientific organizations. They should be members, and active members, of the special society in their field, of their local society or academy, and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The next meeting of the American Association and its affiliated societies will be held in St. Louis, beginning on December 29, 1919. The occasion should be taken to strengthen the association and its work in the central states, which have in recent years assumed such leadership in scientific research. We may be sure that the scientific men of Washington University and the City of St. Louis will do their part. It would be well if the meetings might be celebrated by the affiliation with the association of the strong state and city academies of the Central States and the organization of a central branch of the association on the lines that have proved so successful on the Pacific Coast.

THE INTERALLIED CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION

AT a meeting of representatives of scientific academies of the allied countries and the United States, held in London on the invitation of the Royal Society in October, a committee of enquiry was formed, which met in Paris at the end of November. The delegates in attendance were: *Belgium*—MM. Leconte, Massart, de la Vallée Poussin; *Brazil*—M. de Carvalho; *France*—MM. Painlevé, Guignard, E. Picard, A. Lacroix, Lippman, E. Perrier, Roux, Haller, Bigourdan, Bailaud, Lallemand, Moureu, Flahault; *Italy*—Sen. V. Volterra, Professors

Reina, Nasini, Ricco, Fantoli; *Japan*—Professors Tanakadate and Sakurai; *Poland*—M. L. Mickiewicz; *Rumania*—MM. Soutzo, Hurmuzeco, Mrazzee, Marinesco; *Serbia*—MM. Zujovio, Petrovitch, Jopovitch; *United Kingdom*—Professor Schuster, Mr. J. H. Jeans, Sir Frank Dyson, Sir E. Sharpey Schafer, Professors Frankland, Sherrington, and Starling, Col. Lyons, Dr. Knott; *United States of America*—Professor Bumstead, Col. Carty, Drs. Durand, Flexner, Hale, Noyes.

An International Research Council was formed, and a committee of five was elected consisting of MM. Picard (chairman), Volterra, Leconte, Hale, and Schuster. The seat of the bureau is to be in London. It is understood that the organization and arrangements are provisional, to be confirmed later by the academies and societies which enter the movement.

One of the organizations planned is an International Geophysical Union, which is intended to be controlled by an international committee consisting of representatives of international councils and of delegates appointed by the governments. The number of delegates is to be proportional to the size of the nation, as is the contribution by each. Only those nations that have been at war with Germany may enter the union, but arrangements may later be made for the admission of neutral nations.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of Wallace Clement Sabine, professor of physics at Harvard University and formerly dean of the Lawrence Scientific School; of Rossitier Worthington Raymond, the well-known mining engineer, and of Robert John Pocock, director of the Nizamiah Observatory, Hyderabad.